

By: Farrar

H.B. No. 3694

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the health professions resource center; increasing a  
3 fee.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Section 105.002, Health and Safety Code, is  
6 amended by adding Subsections (d) and (e) to read as follows:

7 (d) To the extent funding is available through fees  
8 collected under Section 505.203(d), Occupations Code, the council  
9 shall establish a social work section for workforce studies within  
10 the center for the collection and analysis of educational and  
11 employment trends for social workers in this state.

12 (e) If the social work section for workforce studies  
13 established under Subsection (d) is funded from surcharges  
14 collected under Section 505.203(d), Occupations Code, the council  
15 shall provide the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners with  
16 an annual accounting of the money received from the board. The  
17 council may expend a reasonable amount of the money to pay the  
18 administrative costs of maintaining the social work section for  
19 workforce studies.

20 SECTION 2. Sections 105.003(a), (c-1), (d), and (e), Health  
21 and Safety Code, are amended to read as follows:

22 (a) The council shall place a high priority on collecting  
23 and disseminating data on health professions demonstrating an acute  
24 shortage in this state, including:

- 1           (1) data concerning nursing personnel; [~~and~~]  
2           (2) data concerning social workers; and  
3           (3) data concerning the health professions in which  
4 shortages occur in rural areas and areas near the international  
5 border.

6           (c-1) The Department of Information Resources, through the  
7 state electronic Internet portal and in consultation with the  
8 council and the Health Professions Council, shall add the following  
9 fields on an application or renewal form for a license,  
10 certificate, or registration for a person subject to Subsection  
11 (c-2):

- 12           (1) date and place of birth;  
13           (2) sex;  
14           (3) race and ethnicity;  
15           (4) location of high school;  
16           (5) mailing address of primary practice;  
17           (6) number of hours per week spent at primary practice  
18 location;  
19           (7) description of primary practice setting;  
20           (8) primary practice information, including primary  
21 specialty practice, practice location zip code, and county; [~~and~~]  
22           (9) information regarding any additional practice,  
23 including description of practice setting, practice location zip  
24 code, and county; and  
25           (10) a description of the person's language fluency.

26           (d) To the extent feasible, the council shall use a  
27 researcher with a doctorate in nursing to collect, analyze, and

1 disseminate nursing data that may be used to predict supply and  
2 demand for nursing personnel in this state using appropriate  
3 federal or state supply-and-demand models. To the extent feasible,  
4 the council shall use a researcher with a degree from a master's  
5 social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work  
6 Education and a doctorate in social work to collect, analyze, and  
7 disseminate social work data that may be used to predict supply and  
8 demand for social work personnel in this state using appropriate  
9 federal or state supply-and-demand models. The nursing and social  
10 work data must at least:

11 (1) include demographics, areas of practice, supply,  
12 demand, and migration; and

13 (2) be analyzed to identify trends relating to numbers  
14 and geographical distribution, practice setting, and area of  
15 practice and, to the extent possible, compare those trends with  
16 corresponding national trends.

17 (e) Data received under this section by the nursing resource  
18 section or the social work section for workforce studies  
19 established under Section 105.002 that contains information  
20 identifying specific patients or health care facilities is  
21 confidential, is not subject to disclosure under Chapter 552,  
22 Government Code, and may not be released unless all identifying  
23 information is removed.

24 SECTION 3. Section 105.004(b), Health and Safety Code, is  
25 amended to read as follows:

26 (b) The council shall publish reports regarding the data  
27 collected and analyzed under this chapter related to:

1           (1) the educational and employment trends of nursing  
2 and social work professionals;

3           (2) the supply and demand of nursing and social work  
4 professionals; and

5           (3) other issues, as determined necessary by the  
6 council, concerning nursing or social work professionals in this  
7 state.

8           SECTION 4. Section 505.203, Occupations Code, is amended by  
9 adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

10           (d) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, the  
11 amount of the fee to renew a social worker license is increased by  
12 \$10. The board may use six cents from the amount of the surcharge  
13 under this subsection to cover the administrative costs of  
14 collecting and depositing the surcharge. The board quarterly shall  
15 transmit the remainder of each surcharge to the Department of State  
16 Health Services to be used only to fund the social work section for  
17 workforce studies under Section 105.002, Health and Safety Code.  
18 The board is not required to collect the surcharge if the board  
19 determines that the money collected is not appropriated to fund the  
20 social work section for workforce studies.

21           SECTION 5. Section 505.203(d), Occupations Code, as added  
22 by this Act, applies only to a license renewed on or after the  
23 effective date of this Act. A license renewed before the effective  
24 date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the  
25 license was renewed, and the former law is continued in effect for  
26 that purpose.

27           SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.